

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A cross fader including:

a first optocoupler for receiving and transmitting a first signal, said first optocoupler including a first space through which said first signal is optically communicated;

a second optocoupler for receiving and transmitting a second signal, said second optocoupler including a second space through which said second signal is optically communicated; and

a shutter means with a range of travel, wherein at a first position in said range of travel, said shutter means is inserted into said first space thereby at least attenuating said first signal, and wherein at a second position in said range of travel, said shutter means is inserted into said second space thereby at least attenuating said second signal.

2. The cross fader of Claim 1 wherein said shutter means is a blade shutter.

3. The cross fader of Claim 2 wherein said first position is at a first end of said range of travel and wherein said second position is at a second end of said range of travel.

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4. The cross fader of Claim 3 wherein said first and second optocouplers are C-shaped with a mouth through which said blade shutter enters said first and second spaces, respectively.

5. The cross fader of Claim 4 wherein said blade shutter is mechanically responsive to a stem which passes through a slot a surface of said cross fader to affix to a knob, wherein a user manipulates said knob to move said blade shutter within said range of travel.

6. The cross fader of Claim 5 wherein guide rods define a direction of said range of travel.

7. The cross fader of Claim 6 wherein said blade shutter is mounted on a support structure, said support structure including apertures through which said guide rods pass.

8. The cross fader of Claim 7 wherein said knob is moved linearly along a path defined by said slot in order to move said blade shutter along said range of travel.

9. The cross fader of Claim 8 wherein said range of travel includes a range of positions wherein said blade shutter is free from insertion into said first and second spaces.

10. The cross fader of Claim 9 wherein said first and second optocouplers are mounted on a p.c. board, said p.c. board forming an interior surface of a chassis.

11. The cross fader of Claim 10 wherein a face plate with mounting apertures is secured to said chassis.

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